

March 2017

Girls, Women, and International Education Panel Discussion

On **Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with the American Association of University Women-KC Branch, will host a panel discussion focusing on the status of women and girls in international education. A free light reception will precede the program at 6:00 p.m.

Women's History Month is an annual celebration of women's accomplishments in history and contemporary society within the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia. Annually, America celebrates the achievements of women in March. This year as a part of that effort, a panel of speakers will focus on international aspects of education for women and girls. Highlighted topics will focus on how girls and women are educated abroad; the benefits and outcomes of gender parity and the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and an overview of inbound/outbound international students' experiences in obtaining their education. Panelists include **Angela Markley-Peterson**, Director of Global Education and Study Abroad at Park University, **Kimberly Connelly**, Senior International Officer at University of Kansas Medical Center; and **Dr. Tom Patterson**, Professor and Director of International Education at Johnson County Community College. *This program is presented in partnership with the American Association of University Women-KC Branch.*

Reservations are requested for this **free program** by calling 816-268-8010 or emailing kansascity.educate@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

Amending America National Conversations Series Continues in March



In celebration of the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, the National Archives presents a national initiative: Amending America. Written in 1789 and ratified on December 15, 1791, the original Bill of Rights, on permanent display in the National Archives Rotunda in Washington D.C., is still closely connected to the biggest issues of today - and to each of our citizens. Through a series of exhibitions, programs, online resources, and more, Amending America explores how we continue to perfect our union through the lens of our historic records. In celebration of this 225th anniversary, the National

Archives is hosting a series of conversations across the country to explore the continuing and often complicated issues of rights of our modern era.

The series continues on **Tuesday, March 7**, with a program in Dallas, Texas, at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science focused on *Education Access and Equity*. From school choice to standardized testing, public education in the United States continues to be hotly debated at the state and national levels. Moderated by author and journalist **Cokie Roberts**, a keynote conversation with **Gregg Fleisher**, National Math and Science Initiative, will be followed by a panel discussion with **Hector Flores**, League of United Latin American Citizens; **Sharon Shaffer**, Early Learning in Museums, Inc.; **Michael Sorrell**, Paul Quinn College; and **Todd Williams**, Commit!. To view the program via live stream register [here](#).

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Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives
400 W. Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108

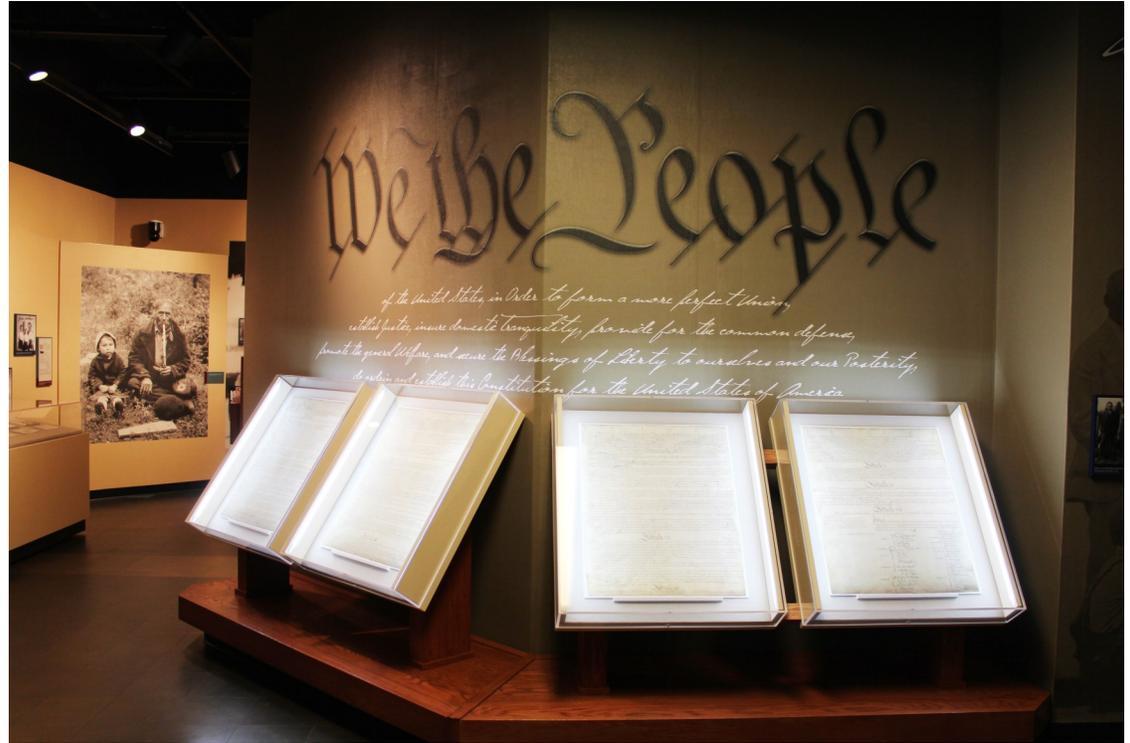
- MARCH 14 - 6:30 P.M.
EVENING PANEL
DISCUSSION: *GIRLS,
WOMEN, AND
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION*

We the People Exhibition Opens at the National Archives

The National Archives at Kansas City significantly expanded its permanent exhibitions with the recent completion of renovations to the exhibit galleries and hospitality area. A new permanent introductory exhibition titled, *We the People*, focuses on how records matter and impact the lives of every American. Alongside the stories of the great and powerful, the millions of records in the holdings of the National Archives give insight into the lives of ordinary people. Nearly all Americans can find themselves, their neighbors, their ancestors, or their community in the records of the National Archives.

The exhibition, which features records primarily from the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City, is divided into five sections:

- **We the People** introduces visitors to the process of becoming an American and reveals details about immigrants seeking citizenship in the United States. In addition, the exhibit features information about the first Americans (Native Americans) and family history research. Highlighted materials in this section include naturalization petitions; oaths of citizenship; enemy alien registration affidavits; photos from the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools; and a treaty between the Pawnee and Yankton Sioux.



Above: Gallery photo of introductory section of *We the People*. Image courtesy of National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service.



- **Form a More Perfect Union** provides a glimpse into records that show the evolution of our democracy. Both milestone documents and everyday records tell the story of our triumphs and struggles to become truly “one nation, with liberty and justice for all.” Materials in this section include documents from important civil rights cases, such as *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas*; *U.S. v. Murray Stanley*; and *U.S. v. Samuel Nichols*. Additional items include photographs of a Students for Democratic Society protest; a Suffrage parade; and strikers from the Curlee Clothing Company.

Above: Gallery photo of the section titled *Form a More Perfect Union*. Image courtesy of National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service.

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- **Provide for the Common Defense** showcases records of our nation's activities during wartime, both on the homefront and abroad. America's diplomatic and military records - from the Revolutionary to the Persian Gulf War - paint a vivid picture of heroism, inspiration, and sacrifice. Highlighted records include Provost Marshal records; Quartermaster Depot documents; military discharge orders; photographs of troops and those who served; and materials that document the conservation efforts of food and supplies on the Homefront.

- **Promote the General Welfare** focuses on records that open a window on the human spirit and ingenuity needed to realize the promise of America as envisioned by the Founders. Included are documents from the Soil Erosion Service; Civil Works Administration; steamboat inspections; weather bureau records, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer maps. Also included are signatures of famous individuals such as Lucille Bluford, Sitting Bull, Thomas Edison, Walt Disney, Thurgood Marshall, and Booker T. Washington.



Above: Gallery photo of the section titled To Ourselves and Our Posterity. Image courtesy of National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service.

- **To Ourselves and our Posterity** aims to illustrate that as the nation's record grows and changes, so does the National Archives. From rare parchments to electronic records, we preserve and make available to you the records that tell America's story. Materials highlighted in this section include a court case involving Walt Disney; National Park Service maps and images; a court case focused on *The Harvey Girls* movie script; and documents involving the prosecution of the Barker-Karpis gang.

We the People is free and available for viewing Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Are you connected to the National Archives at Kansas City?



Due to the increased costs of printing and postage the National Archives will rarely send information through U.S. postal mail. We encourage our patrons to use electronic mail and social media to connect with us. Our Facebook address is www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. In addition, you can tweet us via Twitter @KCArchives or #KCArchives.



All information about upcoming events and programs is emailed to patrons through our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred address to kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8000. By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about upcoming exhibitions, special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.



Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

The Woman's Land Army of America in WWI

Most people have heard of "Rosie the Riveter," the iconic working gal of World War II who worked in a production plant, while men were off fighting. But how many remember the "Farmerettes" or "The Women's Land Army of America" that operated during World War I? These female heroes of the Great War have been forgotten. Women's History Month, celebrated each March, provides an opportunity to recognize these female pioneers of 100 years ago.

The Women's Land Army of America (WLAA) operated from 1917 to 1919, and was organized in 42 states. It was inspired by the women of Great Britain who had organized as the Women's Land Army, also known as the "Land Girls" or "Land Lassies." Creation of the WLAA enabled nearly 20,000 urban-residing women to enter America's agricultural sector to work as ordinary wage laborers between 1917 and 1921.

The WLAA's work began at the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women at Ambler (now part of Temple University). The WLAA operated on regional and state-levels, and by 1918 women across twenty states had participated in agricultural training and education programs. California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia offered training for agricultural work.

Martin. So. Dakota. July 7 1919

Miss. O'Brine. Omaha. Neb

Madam. I read the enclosed slip in the World Herald of the 3
regarding the Farmerettes that would come west to work.
I wrote the Lady organizer from New York I have forgotten her
name a few days ago & expected an answer by now. but have not
received any. & am writing you I have a farm & cattle Ranch
& can hire 3 women providing they can handle teams & do ordinary
farm & ranch work they must be healthy & fairly strong & not afraid
of Indians. I live on Pine Ridge Indian reservation I would not
order them up here without seeing them & explaining what they will
be up against when they come. write me & I will come down
plenty of men in Omaha & so Omaha no more we have to begin
haying & there is no men except I.W.W

respectfully.

J. P. Richards

Box .87. Martin .So. Dakota.

The National Archives at Kansas City houses records from the United States Employment Services, Office of the Federal State Director, located in Omaha, Nebraska. This office had the task to partner with the WLAA to find work for women in the during World War I.

A notable aspect of the office was its effort to place women as farm labor, though the Nebraska office did not begin placing women on farms as farm workers (other than housekeepers) until near the end of the war. From these records, a few stories emerge.

Above: Letter from J.R. Richards requesting "Farmerettes" for his farm and cattle ranch on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation. Record Group 183, Records of the Office of Employment Security; General Records. 1918-1919; Women's Division, Omaha; National Archives at Kansas City, NAID 2637970.

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Miss Kathleen O'Brien was the examiner in charge in Omaha. She would receive most of the correspondence requesting assistance in obtaining labor or help in finding positions for those who needed employment. During the early part of the war in 1917, the Omaha office filled positions mostly in offices and factories. Correspondence with the Skinner Manufacturing Company shows they had hired Miss Mae Farran and wanted more women workers. In June 1918, the Western Union Telegraph Company, stated they would prefer to employ boys or young men for evening work, but were unable to secure them. They asked for help filing telegrams, loading messages carriers carts, etc. In June 1918, they hired 13 women and five men. Many of the applicants were school teachers looking for summer jobs.

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WOMAN'S LAND ARMY OF AMERICA INC
Land Workers Enrollment Card

Name...Alice.Van.Tuyl.....Age..24.....
Address....Camp.Brewster.....Tel..So..958.....
Nearest of kin to be notified in case of emergency
.....Florence.Van.Tuyl..+..Camp.Brewster.....
Present occupation...Typist.....Religion-Christian
Precious farming experince....At.home.for.six.years.....
If.in WLAA unit - where.....When.....
Date available for work...Any.time.....
Locality preferred.....
Will serve.....weeks...two.....months

Medical examination.....

Filed.....1919.

As the need for labor increased, more stories were published in local, state, and surrounding states'

Above: Women's Land Army of America Inc.; Land workers Enrollment Card, for "Farmerette" Alice Van Tuyl. Record Group 183, Records of the Office of Employment Security; General Records. 1918-1919; Women's Division, Omaha; National Archives at Kansas City, NAID 2637970.

newspapers about labor needs. This added to the inquiries from women needing work and people needing help. J.R. Richards of Martin, South Dakota, needed labor on his farm and cattle ranch and could hire three women, provided they could handle teams and do ordinary farm and ranch work. They also had to be healthy and fairly strong and not afraid of Indians, as the ranch was located on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation.

The WLAA's farm work program was well organized. They would separate the "Farmerettes" into camp groups, with women trained in many aspects of farm and ranch duties. These groups could be assigned for one farm or ranch or for all the small farms in a town. A manager oversaw the group of women sent to the camp to aid the farmers or ranchers. Most camps were named after the town the farm was located within.

A new camp was to be placed in Brownlee, Nebraska, on a farm run by Mr. William Ferdon and his wife. The WLAA had girls with overalls who were ready to go. However, for reasons unknown, the Ferdons suddenly moved west. Disappointed were the young women that were trained and willing to work. Shortly thereafter, a letter was received in the Omaha office from a Mr. Marcus J. Cain, a young man from Esther, Nebraska, near Chadron. He was in need of help on his farm that he just took over from his father because of illness. So a camp was to be developed in Chadron by the WLAA with the trained women.

Mr. Marcus J. Cain initially had three young women working on his farm - Miss Katherine Sampson, Miss Linda Schroeder and Miss Ann Marshall. However, Miss Marshall left for a position further west, so Miss Alice Van Tuyl was hired to replace Miss Marshall.

The story of Miss Van Tuyl is just one of many found in these records. A young woman of 24, Van Tuyl was from a family of four girls and two boys. She had worked on her family farm until her father died. She then went to work at the WLAA's Camp Brewster in Brewster, Nebraska, as the camp typist. Van Tuyl's sister, Florence, was employed as one of the farm hands at the camp; Alice also decided to apply for a farm hand job.

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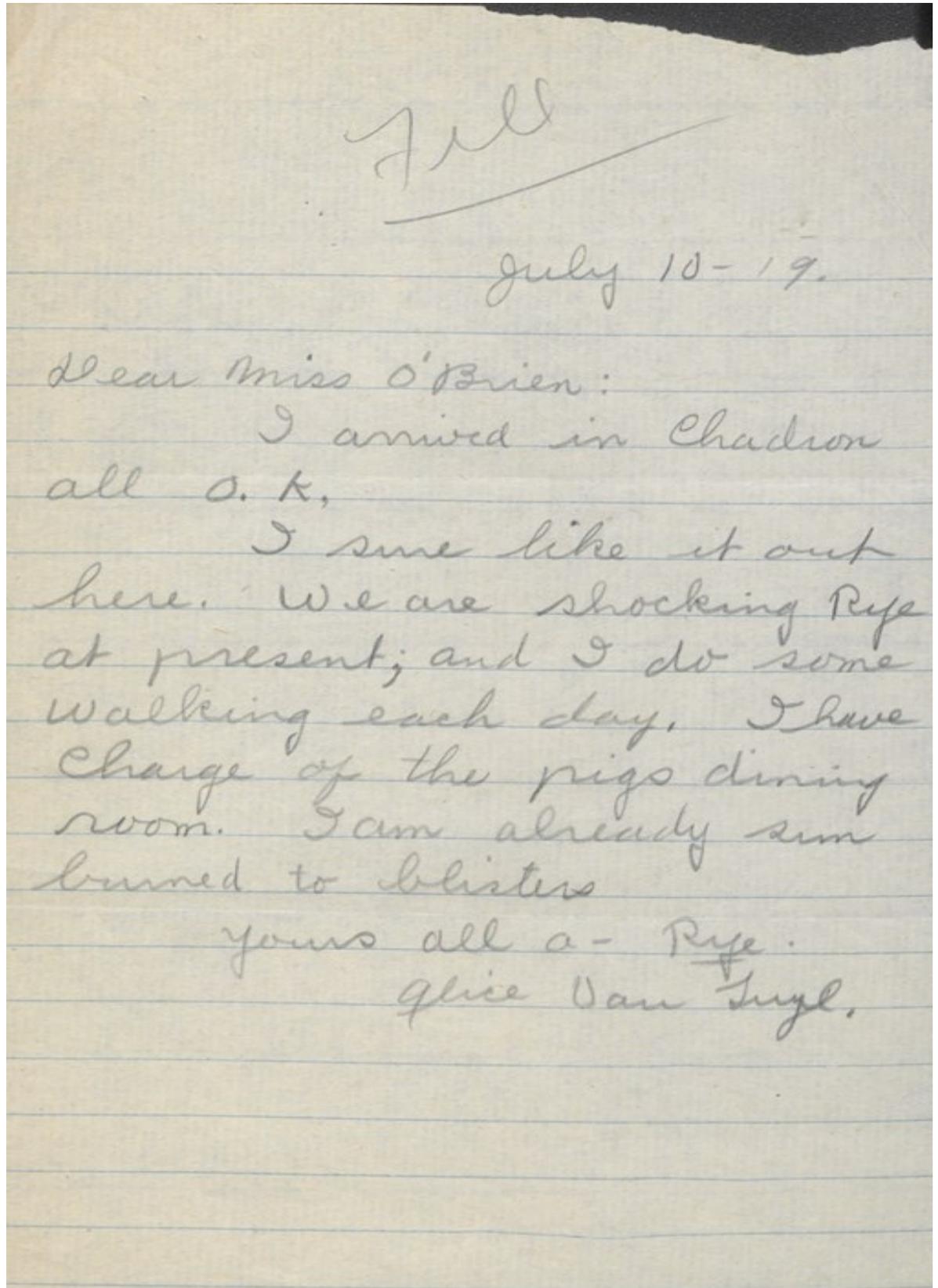
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A letter to Mr. Cain was sent on June 20, 1919, from Mrs. William H. Hubert, National Director of the WLAA. In the letter it stated that they had a replacement for his farm - Miss Van Tuyl. She lived on a farm, was accustomed to horses, was particularly interested in raising stock, and had worked with cattle and pigs. The pay for farm work was \$60 per month and housework \$10 per week. Also, the cost of transportation was \$17.98 including a sleeper, and that Mr. Cain was to send a check to Miss O'Brien to cover this cost.

A letter from Mr. Cain was received by Miss O'Brien early in July 1919, stating "he was well pleased with the way the girls all do their work and they are on the job all the time and they get the work done. And Miss Van Tuyl that you sent is doing very good, and she seems to have a lot of pep and grit and that's what it takes when a girl goes to do a man's work." He then asked for four or five young women in late August for a month or six weeks to help with harvest.

At the same time, a letter from Miss Van Tuyl was received by Miss O'Brien stating: "I arrived in Chadron all O.K. I sure like it out here. We are shocking Rye at present, and I do some walking each day. I have charge of the pig's dining room. I am already sun burned to blisters. Yours all a-Rye, Alice Van Tuyl."

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The image shows a handwritten letter on lined paper. At the top, the word "Full" is written and underlined. Below it, the date "July 10-19." is written. The letter begins with "Dear Miss O'Brien:" followed by "I arrived in Chadron all O.K." and "I sure like it out here. We are shocking Rye at present; and I do some walking each day. I have charge of the pigs dining room. I am already sun burned to blisters." The letter concludes with "yours all a-Rye." and "Alice Van Tuyl."

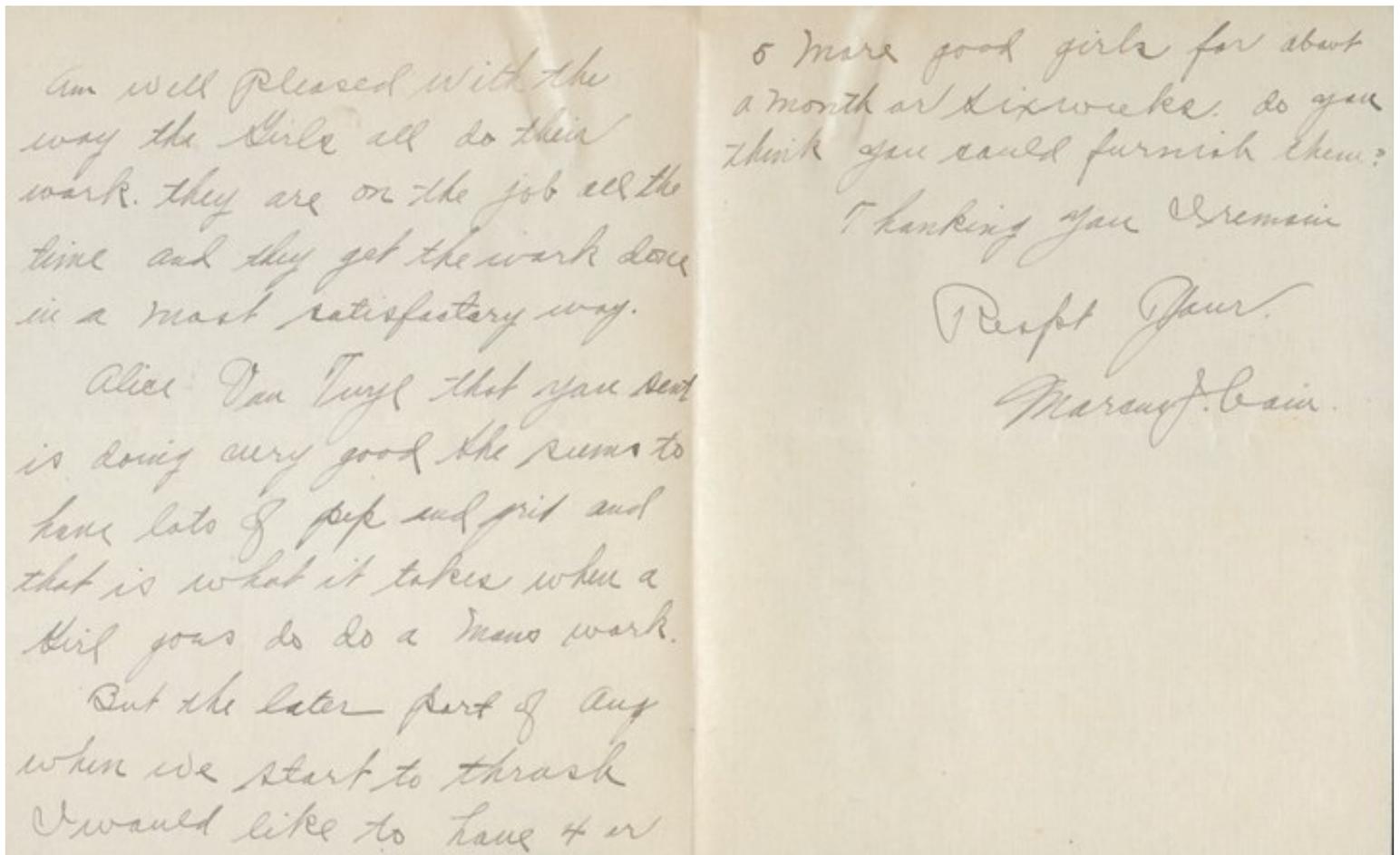
Above: Letter from "Farmerette" Alice Van Tuyl to Miss O'Brien, examiner in charge in Omaha, explaining how she likes the job on the farm. Record Group 183, Records of the Office of Employment Security; General Records. 1918-1919; Women's Division, Omaha; National Archives at Kansas City, NAID 2637970.

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While it is unknown exactly how long Miss Van Tuyl stayed working on Mr. Cain's farm, U.S. Census records indicate that she moved to Los Angeles, California, and continued her work with the government. In 1920, she was working as a Clerk, Typist; in 1930 as a Multigraph operator; and in 1940 as a Stenographer. The 1940 Census reveals that her sisters Sara and Florence were living with her.

These rarely used records have many stories. The correspondence of those looking for work reveals letters from a newly married women whose husband left for the war; a widow who was raising her young son and needed a place that she and her son could live and work; and teachers looking for summer work to help with the war effort. Their applications and hand written letters reveal a compelling story of the women and their lives during and shortly after World War I. For more information about the Women's Land Army of America records visit the [National Archives Catalog](#).

Below: Letter from Mr. Cain to Miss O'Brien, examiner in charge in Omaha, telling her "the girls are working out satisfactory and could use 4 or 5 more when they start thrashing." Record Group 183, Records of the Office of Employment Security; General Records. 1918-1919; Women's Division, Omaha; National Archives at Kansas City, NAID 2637970.



GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather. The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives.